



## **Emergency Medical Services Medical Transportation – Fact Sheet**

The Bureau of EMS (BEMS) shall oversee inspection and credentialing of medical transportation (emergency vehicles) as outlined in RS 40: 1235. This mandate is under the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, but shall be promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals. The Bureau of Emergency Medical Services is responsible for setting the standards, and overseeing all EMS Services, but the authority for the inspection and credentialing of medical transportation is currently held by Office of Health Standards. The Bureau of EMS is better suited to oversee this activity, as Health Standards cannot set the standards for which emergency vehicles are regulated. A reduction in funding would have no impact on the Bureau of EMS. Transferring responsibility of inspection and credentialing of medical transportation to BEMS would streamline services, improve efficiency, and reduce overall costs across the Department of Health and Hospitals.

### **Objective**

Establish standards, based on national or other evidence-based standards where possible, for the operation and deployment of EMS personnel. Assume the authority for standards, inspection, and licensure of equipment and operation of emergency, and for the clinical operations of air medical services.

### **Performance Indicators**

1. Assume the role as the designated authority for the establishment of qualifications to operate emergency medical transportation vehicles
2. Conduct inspections of all emergency medical transportation vehicles, provider services, and verify certification of personnel authorized to operate these vehicles.
3. Conduct inspections of all required equipment and supplies as mandated by the Department of Health and Hospitals

### **Narrative**

Mandates exist to identify, license, and assure adequate deployment of emergency and non-emergency medical transportation and personnel. These resources are linked and must meet

specific standards of quality to assure clinical competency, timely, and appropriate responses scaled to meet the nature of the incident. There is a need to monitor competency, safety, and response times of these resources.

Licensure of resources is a significant component to the success of the EMS mission. Currently, two agencies with no formal operational linkages provide oversight of these critical resources. Licensure of emergency medical transportation is provided by DHH, Health Services Financing, and Medicaid Office of Health Standards. Licensure of emergency medical services personnel is provided by DHH, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services. Both processes are equally important, yet remain totally separate.

With the integration of these tasks, the Bureau of EMS could simultaneously conduct inspections of vehicles, providers and personnel providing:

- Efficiency and effectiveness at a cost savings for the state
- Elimination of duplication for the providers
- Improve quality of care as a result of increased overall compliance

### **Better Health**

The State is committed to streamlining services, and reducing the cost and size of state government. Currently, we have redundant systems and repetitive actions located in different branches of DHH which is inefficient and allows for non-compliance to standards and regulations. This decreases the standard of care for our residents.